

All 50 states are included in SBC headcount

by Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — There was width as well as depth in the number of registered messengers at the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas.

The official headcount of 45,519 included — for the first time — messengers from each of the 50 United States plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, according to figures just released by Lee Porter, registra-

tion secretary.

A single messenger from Maine and two messengers each from Rhode Island and Puerto Rico made the 1985 meeting the most wide-spread geographically ever. The only areas entitled to messengers by the SBC constitution not represented were American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Interestingly, Vermont, which ap-

parently had been represented only at the Pittsburgh convention in 1983 had eight messengers in Dallas.

As could be expected, Texas had more representation numerically than any other state, with 12,634 messengers which was 27.76 percent of the total. And the "motherland" of the Southern Baptist Convention — the 14 states of the Deep South — accounted for more than 90 percent of

total registration (41,104).

But while the numbers are interesting, Porter feels the percentages and percentage comparisons to the last two conventions in Dallas (1965 and 1974) are a more valid basis for analysis. "Everybody's numbers were probably at an all time high since we almost doubled the record for number of messengers," Porter pointed out. The 1984 figures for church

membership in the SBC show that 60.55 percent (8,681,997) of the convention's 14.3-million membership lives east of the Mississippi and the remaining 39.45 percent (5,667,660) live west of the river.

Mississippi sent 1,663, or 3.65 percent of the total.

Craig Bird is Baptist Press feature editor.

The Baptist Record

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MISSISSIPPI: COMPELLED BY CHRIST'S LOVE



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Memorial in India will honor Carey

By Dwight Baker

SERAMPORE, India (BP) — Ground was broken in July for a memorial to honor missions pioneer William Carey and two other Baptists who started a college to educate Christian evangelists in India.

In 1818 Carey, Joshua Marshman and William Ward, known as the Serampore Trio, began Serampore College with a goal of providing Christian evangelists with as thorough an education as Muslim and Hindu scholars received in the country. The school now offers courses in theology, arts, commerce, and science.

From its beginning, Serampore College has been popular with Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. Students have been admitted without regard to caste, religion or color. The college also has been a pioneer in educating women. Today 55 percent of its

students are women.

Previously the only commemoration of the college founders was a small museum with preserved books.

Former Southern Baptist Convention president Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., has been leading efforts to raise money for the campus memorial. Cooper and others hope the memorial will stimulate interest in preserving the founders' nearby grave sites. All have suffered from neglect and are in poor condition.

Recently Baptists have begun to rebuild the wall which surrounds the cemetery where the graves are located, devise adequate drainage, and hire a reliable watchman to prevent further vandalism.

Dwight Baker is a missionary in India.

Ordination of pastor first-ever for Brunei

SERIA, Brunei Darussalam (BP) — The first ordination to the gospel ministry among evangelicals in Brunei took place this summer at Bethel Church of Seria.

More than 200 people, full capacity for the church, attended the ordination service of Geoffrey Yong. The group included church members and representatives from evangelical groups in Brunei; Singapore; and Sarawak, Malaysia.

The customary questioning of the ordination candidate, which took place the evening before the service, was open to the entire congregation so that everyone could listen and learn.

Yong became a Christian about 10 years ago in the Seria church and left a job with Brunei Shell Petroleum Co.

to go into full-time Christian service. His home church sent him to Singapore for theological training and invited him back to be their pastor when he graduated in June 1983.

He has been the pastor for two years at Bethel, which has English and Mandarin congregations. His wife, Debby, was included in the ceremonies so that her role as pastor's wife could be encouraged and strengthened.

Brunei is an Islamic nation about the size of Delaware that shares the island of Borneo in the South China Sea with parts of Malaysia and Indonesia. Southern Baptist missionaries Bobby and Dorothy Evans of Georgia have lived there since 1981.

There's nobody else

State missions is us. We do it. There's nobody else. In the immortal words of another Southern Baptist, President Harry Truman, "The buck stops here."

We gladly give our money to send people and material overseas to win the lost wherever they are found around the world. We are less enthusiastic about our nation, but we still give our money to help heal hurts and witness to the lost all over the United States.

When it comes to our state, we're almost to the point of saying, "So what?" The enthusiasm for the State Missions Season of Prayer and the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions in Mississippi is not overwhelming, nor is it much better, if any, in any other state.

We don't find the excitement at home that is a part of the experience of helping to spread the gospel overseas.

State missions, however, is a vital link in the worldwide missions endeavor of Southern Baptists. It is just as vital as either of the other two links, foreign missions and home missions. The lost are just as lost in Mississippi as they are in Nigeria. Or Argentina. Or in the South Bronx of New York City.

They are lost.

But we are not going to be able to pay someone else to come to Mississippi and witness to the lost for us. The people who are going to do it are already here, and we are some of them. In fact, we are all of them.

It will take money, however.

The plan for this year is to raise \$481,000 for state missions. That's roughly \$1 for every resident member. Of course, a great many resident members are not going to give

anything, so that means some of the rest of us are going to have to raise our sights considerably in order to make the goal.

The theme for this year is "Mississippi—Compelled by Christ's Love," and the season of prayer is Sept. 8 to 11.

Because we are compelled by Christ's love to witness to the whole world, not just overseas, we will want to be sure that the state missions offering goal is met.

The allocations are these:

New missions—\$125,900. This is establishing new work in the path of population growth all over the state. This fund goes to help pay for the land to make such new work possible.

Central Hills Baptist Retreat—\$122,000. This marvelous facility for boys in Mississippi is a witnessing vehicle in itself. Missionaries and pastors as well as other church vocational workers have come and will continue to come from summer experiences at Central Hills.

Camp Garaywa—\$135,000. The same is true for girls at Camp Garaywa as is true for boys at Central Hills. This is a lovely, functional, and comfortable facility just outside of Jackson where girls are inspired to give their lives and their work to the Lord, and annually scores make such commitments as well as make professions of faith.

Disaster Relief—\$35,000. Mississippi Baptists have an effective disaster relief ministry that is ready to go into devastated areas as soon as the word for help is heard. The team

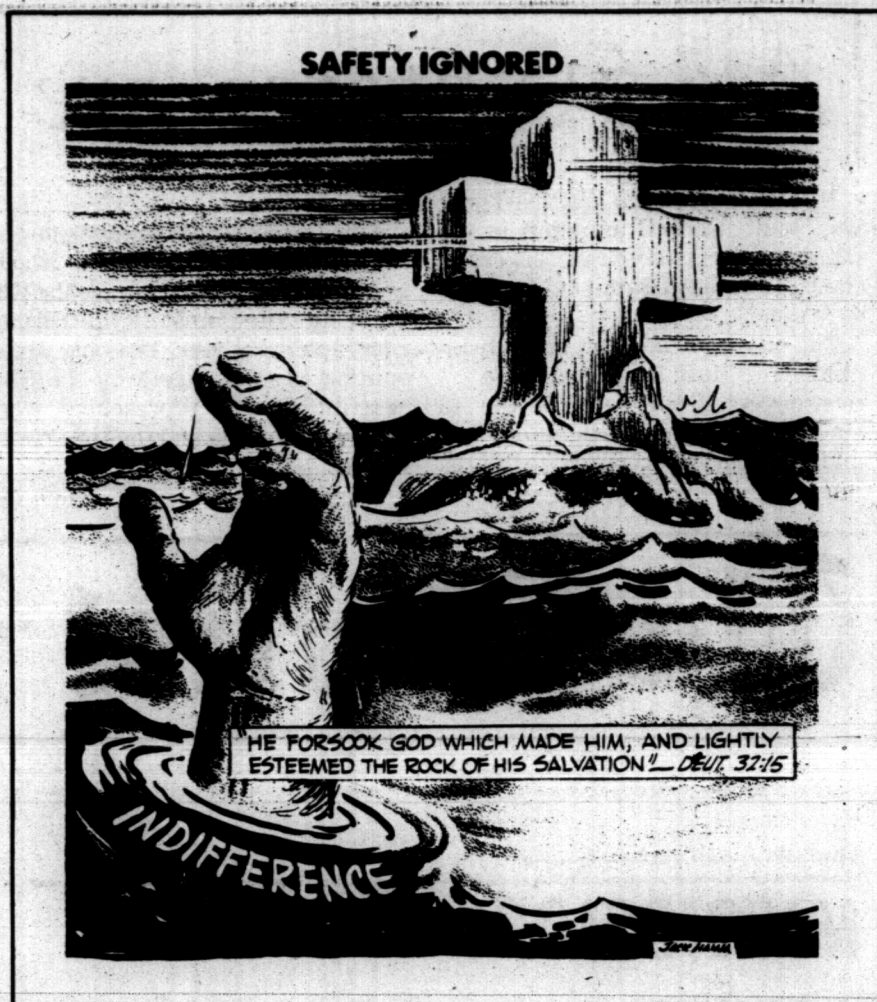
members serve in Mississippi or in other states if needed. They were ready to go if Danny had become a full-fledged hurricane, and they have gone many times before. They take a well-equipped tractor-trailer rig and a motor home into the needy areas and are on the spot early to help in relief efforts. Since Elena, they have set up the unit at First Church, Pascagoula.

Special ministries—\$4,100. This is broken down into three parts. Work with National Baptists will get \$1,300, and work with Indians will get \$2,800. Of course, this is not all of the money that goes to these two causes, but these are special situations that are not budgeted in some other area.

There is also work with black Southern Baptists, and Mississippi Baptists have two black churches within our fellowship. They are Christ Temple in Moss Point and Faith Obedience in Biloxi.

Parchman Ministry—\$20,000. This is a ministry to the staff people at the state penitentiary and their families and is an equipping ministry to helping those who volunteer to minister to the inmates.

Church Building Aid/Pastoral Aid—\$30,000. This fund helps a bit when fire and other causes have dealt churches a physical blow in the damage to a building or in the loss of one, and it also helps when a church cannot pay a pastor an adequate salary but his time is needed on the field for faster growth so that the church can be providing a greater witness in a needy field at an earlier time.



Mission Awareness—\$9,000. This is applied to spreading the word of the needs of state missions in Mississippi.

That's not all there is to missions work in Mississippi. There is a great deal more that is funded in other ways or that is carried on by volunteers who may be paying the costs as well as doing the work. These items make up the work that is funded by the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions.

We are compelled just as much by Christ's love to witness to the lost in Mississippi as we are to witness to the lost in Nigeria or Argentina or the

South Bronx of New York City.

The state missions offering is a vehicle for doing that.

Just as important as the money is the season of prayer for state missions. We cannot move without prayer. We must have direction, or all effort is wasted. Churches will be involved in the season of prayer sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union of the churches.

Members are urged to participate in the times of prayer for state missions whence will come their determination to help to adequately fund the missions efforts.

Guest opinion . . .

Guided by his spirit

By Harold T. Kitchings

The late Mrs. Owen Williams, wife of the late Owen Williams, Sr., who for many years was pastor of Utica Baptist Church in southwest Hinds County, was small in stature but large in heart.

On Sept. 23, 1963, Mrs. Williams established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation the "Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund." The original corpus of the fund was \$1,000. The gift was a memorial to her husband and their daughter, Becky Williams Nesmith. The earnings from this fund were designated for student scholarships at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

On the same day, Mrs. Williams established the "Williams Memorial Missions Gift" in the exact amount as a memorial to her late husband and their daughter. The earnings from this gift are divided annually between the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board.

Soon after the original gift was made to the Foundation, Mrs. Williams decided that, while the earlier gifts had come from an insurance distribution, she wanted to add another \$500 to the corpus of the scholarship fund. By her own testimony, she would mail checks or

deliver in person small sums of money ranging from \$50 to, on one occasion 75 cents. Harry L. Spencer and Carey E. Cox, former executive secretaries of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation received these gifts.

On July 8, 1974, the following excerpt is taken from a letter Mrs. Williams addressed to Cox. "Enclosed is my check for four dollars and sixty-six cents to round out my one thousand five hundred dollars if my fingers counted right. I am so thankful the Lord let me live to reach my goal. It took me ten years of a few dollars now and then, but it has been worth it, and I am so happy when I think that this little amount will go on and on working for the Lord after I am gone."

The Lord still stands by the treasury and observes that the widow's mite is frequently the largest gift of all, because these widows are guided by his Spirit.

Harold T. Kitchings is executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

When you make predictions, don't forget to be indefinite about the date. Sooner or later most anything can happen.

A missed mark

Recently the Baptist Record was in receipt of a clipping that was the daily offering of a popular advice columnist. The writer who sent the clipping asked that it be printed in the Baptist Record so that churches could take some kind of action to refute it.

To begin with, there is no question but that the column was protected by a copyright. Perhaps it would have run its course before we could have used it, but there would be no need to take such a chance.

The question that was asked was whether or not a Jewish girl would find eternal life in heaven. The answer was that eternal life is granted to all who live according to God's laws.

It is a tragedy, of course, because this is a widely syndicated column. And the answer missed the mark by 180 degrees. As is pointed out in the Bible, if indeed we could live completely according to God's laws, the answer would be correct. But we don't and we can't. None of us. This is very plainly noted. And since this is the case, there has to be atonement; and the scriptures say that this comes through God's Son, Jesus. His vicarious death provided that atonement.

Since the Jewish girl is not likely to be conversant with the New Testament, she is also not likely to understand this unless someone very carefully points it out to her. But this is not likely to happen as long as those

around her feel that she can live according to God's laws and thus be saved.

Columnists, of course, will continue to do as they please; and there is very little that any of us can do about it. What we can do is be as zealous as possible in spreading the true gospel. We may never find that Jewish girl in order to give her the true way to heaven, but we must do the best we can to find as many as we can and give them the gospel.

There are many others out there who are just as misinformed as the Jewish girl. We have been told to find them.

Early dwelling found

JERUSALEM, Israel (EP) — After eight years of digging through 25 civilizations, archaeologist Yigal Shilo has unearthed the 5,000-year-old home of one of Jerusalem's earliest residents, a Canaanite. The early Bronze Age home is a rectangular room of limestone, located on a steep hillside near the Kidron Valley's Gihon Spring, the only year-round water supply for miles.

Four years ago the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) condemned the project as destroying the character of Jerusalem. Some Orthodox Jews have staged violent protests, charging desecration of a medieval Jewish cemetery.

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Elena brings bad news to Baptists on coast

By Anne McWilliams

Hurricane Elena, which hit the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2, brought bad news to thousands, including Baptists.

Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief unit was dispatched to the Coast and arrived on Monday night. It is in operation at First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, according to Paul Harrell, director, state Brotherhood Department. He said that Alabama Baptists' disaster relief unit is being set up at First Baptist Church, Biloxi, and Louisiana Baptists' small disaster relief unit is being set up at First Baptist Church, Gulfport.

These units distribute food to all who come and ask for it. "No food can be bought now on the Coast," Harrell said. "All grocery store supplies have

been depleted." He estimated that 2,500 are staying in provided shelters in Pascagoula.

Electricity is off all across the Coast. Harrell was told that it may take six to 10 days for service to be restored in Pascagoula and four to six days for restoration in Biloxi and Gulfport areas.

Gulfshore did get some damage. According to Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, "A portion of the roof of the assembly auditorium was torn off by what appears to have been a tornado. The control room received some damage, as did the chain link fence surrounding the assembly grounds."

"Gulfshore management is in the (Continued on page 7)

Convention Board approves major building projects

By Tim Nicholas

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, meeting in Jackson last week, voted to send a 1986 budget of \$18,550,000 to the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention in November, approved major building projects for the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and William Carey College, and began

a board reorganization plan.

The budget, which is a six percent increase over that of 1985, which is \$17,500,000, continues a convention-approved plan for increasing by a half percent a year the portion of the budget that goes to Cooperative Program causes outside the state.

For 1986, that portion will be 36.04 percent of the total budget. Mississippi Baptist institutions and agencies will receive \$5,222,832, or 28.16 percent of the total budget. This includes \$3,361,247 for Christian education, \$600,000 for Christian education capital needs, and \$200,000 toward the total cost of \$667,500 for the projected costs of the endowment campaign being undertaken by Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and the Baptist Children's Village.

Another \$503,523 is slated for ongoing costs of convention and convention board operation. Convention Board staff are slated to receive three percent cost of living increases and up to two percent merit raises next year.

The Medical Center and Carey building projects will need convention approval in November. Both are well under way. Carey is building a group of dormitories on its coast campus for \$2.7 million, placing the property being built upon as loan security. The Medical Center has torn down its old Manship property, planning for a medical office building and clinic. A partnership leasing plan should amortize the mortgage which may reach to \$15 million, according to Paul Pryor, MBCB administrator.

Additionally, Carey received Board permission to sell some non-adjacent property that had been given to the college. The term "bequest" as used in convention bylaws was interpreted by MBC president Charles Pickering, an attorney, to mean that such a gift could be sold by an institution without convention approval. Carey is receiving \$1 million toward its endowment for sale of the property in Hattiesburg.

(Continued on page 7)

Board lends chapel trailer to Priceville

By Linda Moore

Fire inspectors blame the August 25 explosion and fire, which severely injured two men, on a gas leak from a hole in a pipe at Priceville Church, Tupelo.

Vardamen Alexander and Jerry Nolan are still in critical condition at Firefighters Memorial Burn Center in Greenville.

"Providence of God prevented what could have been an even greater tragedy," according to Billy Langley, former interim pastor. Langley would

have preached his last sermon the Sunday of the fire.

In addition to the Mississippi Baptist Convention's donation of a double-wide chapel trailer and \$2,500 for disaster relief, Priceville has received donations from the Lee County Baptist associational office, other churches, and from individuals. Church member Mac Collier said, "You really find out who your friends are when something like this hap-

(Continued on page 10)

Work crews are needed now weekly at Central Hills

By Paul Harrell

On Aug. 8, construction began on a multi-purpose building at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. This facility consisting of 4,300 square feet of floor space will provide lodging for 60 persons and a conference rooms to seat 75 persons. It will be air-conditioned and heated, thus making possible year-round use.

During the summer months the lodge will be used to house Royal Ambassadors attending camp. September through May, it will be available upon request for such as church and associational retreats, leadership training conferences.

Through the sale of Kittiwake property, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board made available funding for supplies and materials. Volunteers from our churches are providing the labor.

Joe Heranney of Hollandale, is volunteer construction coordinator. He has moved on site at Central Hills Baptist Retreat and will be directing the construction process. Dan West, manager at Central Hills, will be

working closely with Heranney in coordinating the volunteers and the work flow.

We need the help of Baptist men in our state. We need work crews weekly at Central Hills. Various building skills will be needed as we progress in the construction process.

The most immediate need is for a framing crew.

Directors of missions and associational Brotherhood directors have been asked to assist us in placing work crews there weekly. Call your director of missions or Dan West at Central Hills identifying your construction skill and the week which you could work (289-9730). We will provide you food and lodging if you will provide the labor.

This facility will be used to spiritually enrich the lives of many in our state. Those who help in the building process can be grateful for their contribution.

Paul Harrell is Brotherhood director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Sifting through the rubble of what was the building of Priceville Baptist Church are Robert Rogers, the newly-called pastor; Gerald Adderholt, a member; and Fred Cook, vice chairman of the deacons.



Workmen from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the church, install a chapel trailer which was loaned by the MBCB for use by Priceville Baptist Church near Tupelo after

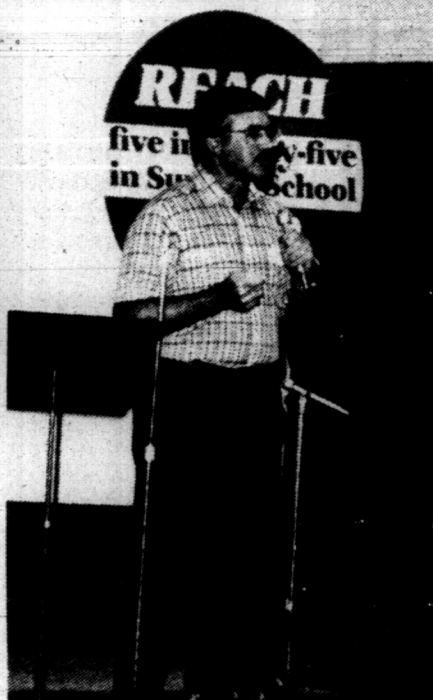
the church blew up and burned on Aug. 25. (Photos by Linda Moore)

At Gulfshore

"Trial . . . is built into . . . life" Peter McLeod tells SS leaders



"Trial comes to us because it is built into the warp and woof of life," Peter McLeod told participants at Sunday School Leadership Conference at Gulfshore recently. McLeod, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, was guest preacher for the conferences. He said he doesn't go along with the notion that God is giving out punishment of AIDS for individuals' homosexual lifestyle. "Others are suffering because it was in the blood they were given." He said that whatever life hands a person is neutral, "it is how we respond that makes it positive or negative," he said. In the photo McLeod talks with Barbara Rhodes of First Church, Biloxi. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Keith Wilkinson, director of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, spoke in the stead of Peter McLeod during one session when McLeod had to attend a funeral. Wilkinson quoted many church leaders who say "I wonder if we could do just a little bit more next year?" Said Wilkinson, "How different (is this) from the Scriptures where God worked in impossibilities." He suggested some principles for dreaming about growing churches. He noted that "it is God's will for us to dream of churches that reach people." He said growth principles apply across size, place and culture, that a focus on people is a sign of a healthy church, and that hindrances and barriers should be identified and overcome.

Planning is essential and leadership is the key to growth, he said. "The greatest resource is people being attuned to the Holy Spirit," said Wilkinson.

Robertson may run

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (EP)—Television evangelist Pat Robertson may seek the 1988 Republican presidential nomination, a spokesman for CBN said Aug. 6. Robertson, who recently switched from Democrat to Republican, will "pray about it and consider it," said Earl Weirich, public affairs director for CBN.

Robertson, son of former U.S. Senator A. Willis Robertson of Virginia, is best known as host of "The 700 Club."

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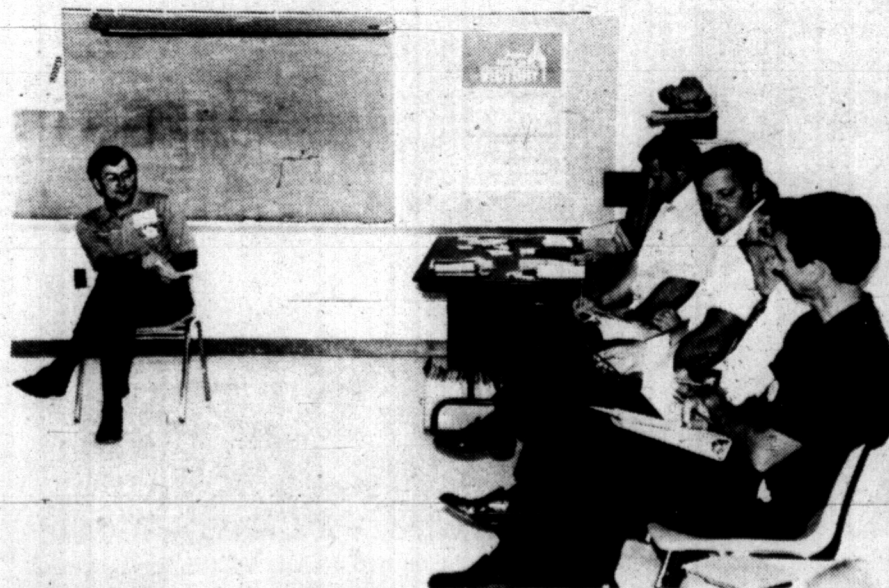
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Lighthouse, a musical group from First Church, Biloxi, sings during a session of Sunday School Leadership Conference at Gulfshore. Leon Bedsole, minister of music for the church, led music at the conference.



Bill Gambrell, minister of education at First Church, Jackson, leads a conference for general officers on "Bible Teaching through the Sunday School."

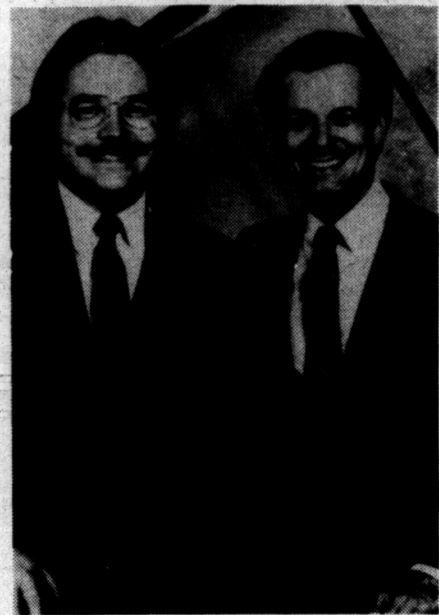
CM sponsors piano concerts

Nielson and Young, concert pianists, will perform in four Mississippi Baptist churches in September in a series of concerts jointly sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department and the host churches.

The concert dates and places are First Church, McComb, Sept. 11; Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, Sept. 12; First Church, Gulfport, Sept. 14; and First Church, Natchez, Sept. 15.

Each concert will be at 7 p.m.

These special concerts are a part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Mississippi Church Music Department.



Nielson and Young

Thank You!



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...for your gifts through the Home Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Thanks for opening your hearts and joining hands with Southern Baptists across the United States. You had a hand in establishing new churches, proclaiming the Good News to a lost and needy nation, setting up food and clothing distribution centers, ministering to homeless refugees and reaching out to people in hospitals, nursing homes, detention centers and prisons—touching people where they are.

With your offerings we are reaching farther . . . stretching into new frontiers.

We tip our hats to you, Mississippi. Thanks!

The Home Mission Board thanks all Baptist churches in the state, especially those who gave the highest per capita offerings in the state in 1984:

Center Ridge Baptist Church, De Kalb \$79.13
Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richmon \$41.46
New Hope Baptist Church, Calhoun City \$30.16
Enterprise Baptist Church, Enterprise \$25.66
Sandy Hook Baptist Church, Sandy Hook \$21.43
Sylvarena Baptist Church, Raleigh \$20.40
Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Walnut Grove \$19.12
Gunnison Baptist Church, Gunnison \$18.59
First Baptist Church, Columbus \$17.77
Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee \$16.81

The Home Mission Board thanks these Baptist churches who gave the highest dollar amounts in the state in 1984:

First Baptist Church, Jackson \$51,069
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson \$31,274
First Baptist Church, Columbus \$28,610
First Baptist Church, Greenville \$15,889
First Baptist Church, Amory \$12,287
First Baptist Church, Laurel \$11,562
First Baptist Church, Gulfport \$11,397
First Baptist Church, Vicksburg \$10,849
First Baptist Church, Brandon \$10,317
First Baptist Church, Picayune \$10,000

(These figures were obtained from the state convention office and from the Church Uniform Letters.)

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering For Home Missions



Home Mission Board, SBC
William G. Tanner, President
1350 Spring Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30367-5601

An SBC agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Send experts to help China, Chang urges Southern Baptists



EXCITED ABOUT CHINA'S FUTURE — C. K. Chang, still youthful and energetic and 75, talks animatedly about opportunities for Southern Baptists to respond to China's need for teachers with special expertise. Chang, product of Southern Baptist work in China, hopes to retire soon from teaching English and devote full time to preaching. (BP) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo

by Bob Stanley

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — A 75-year-old professor from mainland China has laid the challenge of China's one billion people squarely on the shoulders of Southern Baptist.

C. K. Chang, returning to the U.S. after a 46-year absence, said Southern Baptists can provide many of the experts China is seeking to train people in all aspects of modern technology.

China no longer welcomes the missionary presence which Southern Baptists had there for more than 100 years, he emphasized during talks at Foreign Missions Week in Glorieta Aug. 6-12. But, he said, "the door is wide open" for English teachers, mathematicians, chemists, physicists and others with graduate-level expertise in the natural sciences.

His country does not object to these persons being Christians, Chang pointed out. And Christian teachers who live out their faith will find their pupils coming to them individually to inquire about the Bible and about Jesus Christ.

More people are worshipping the true God in China today than ever before, Chang told members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, which met during the week.

"While we cannot yet afford the time and energy to make an accurate

study of the exact number of worshippers attending Protestant church meetings, it has been estimated that between three and five million is a good and realistic figure," he said. This does not include Roman Catholics or many others who gather to worship in homes because there is not enough room for them in the churches which have been allowed to reopen in recent years.

The Community Church which he attends in Wuhu, a city of 600,000 on the south bank of the Yangtze River in central China, seats only 700. But another 700 will stand in the courtyard, on the stairs, and in the street to listen. More than 3,400 churches have been able to reclaim their buildings, seized for other purposes during the Cultural Revolution, and many have two or three services on Sunday and another on Saturday night.

Grace Church in Shanghai, China's largest evangelical-type church, baptized 1,700 last year. The church at Wuhu baptized 100 but has many others on its "waiting list," Chang said. A church in China may wait as long as four or five years to baptize a person who had made a profession of faith in Christ.

Chang, who considers himself a

third-generation "Southern Baptist" because his grandmother became a Christian through the witness of Southern Baptist missionaries, directed the sociology and social work department of the Southern Baptist-sponsored University of Shanghai, 1939-52.

From 1935-39 he studied in the United States, where he earned degrees from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, Southern Seminary, also in Louisville, and did graduate study at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Duke University, Durham, N.C., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Today he is a senior professor and former head of the language department at Anhui Normal University, a teacher-training school in Wuhu with an enrollment of 10,000. He will teach this fall at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, before returning to China the end of this year.

During a two-hour talk and question-and-answer period with the Foreign Mission Board, Chang gave strong endorsement to the board's efforts to encourage more Southern Baptists to offer their services in certain areas of expertise badly needed in China. Those interested in knowing opportunities available may write to Lewis Myers, director of the board's new cooperative services international office.

At 75, the professor is optimistic about his own future and that of his country, where he sees great encouragement in recent actions guaranteeing freedom of religious belief, although religious bodies still must be free of foreign influence.

He defends the Three Self Patriotic Movement, begun in 1954 as China entered what it terms the "post-denominational" era, as "a bridge to help the church secure religious freedom" and not a "superchurch which sends down orders." The official Protestant movement emphasizes Chinese Christian autonomy — self-government, self-support and self-propagation.

China can be a blessing to the world, he said, and he hopes Southern Baptists and other Christians in the United States will be willing to invest their time helping provide academic training for China's young people.

Bob Stanley writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

Soviets grant license to import Bible commentary

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — Russian Baptists report that Soviet Officials have granted an import license for 1,000 copies of the first five volumes of the new Russian language Daily Study Bible by William Barclay. This announcement was made during the World Baptist Congress meeting here in early July.

This was good news for the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists, the Baptist World Alliance, and the Mennonite Central Committee, which have been working together on this translation project since 1979. It is the first time that a multi-volume Bible commentary on the New Testament will be available to the Russian-speaking world.

The commentary will be distributed to pastors to help them in sermon preparation and Bible study. Project leaders are hopeful that the remaining 12 volumes of the 17-volume set will be approved for importation at regular intervals. Translation of the last volume is scheduled to be completed by late July.

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Vernal VBS celebrates offering's birthday



Vernal Baptist Mission, held its first Vacation Bible School the week of Aug. 5-9 in their mobile chapel and trailer, provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. First Church, Lucedale (the sponsoring church) and Shady Grove Church, Lucedale, provided all the materials for the VBS.

Total enrollment was 119 with average daily attendance of 93. A total of 23 adults participated on the faculty. There were 11 professions of faith and one rededication. And an offering of \$185 will be sent to the Baptist Children's Village through the Cooperative Program.

Mrs. Judy Walker of Shady Grove Church gave the evangelistic emphasis each day and Johnny Walker and Marty Pettit, pastor and minister of youth, respectively, at First Church, spoke with the children who made decisions.

The VBS closed with a birthday party celebrating the 60th birthday of the Cooperative Program.

Pastor of Vernal mission is Roger Gilbert; VBS director was Kaye Janczewski.

Baptist Center's "summer kids" make music in nursing homes

By Tim Nicholas

The children in the summer program at the Hinds-Madison Baptist Mission Center in Jackson ministered to residents at four Jackson area nursing homes recently.

Luther Tucker and his wife Catherine had wanted their summer kids to become involved in some type of musical program and when Calvin Thomas was recommended to them, "things just fell in place," said Tucker. Thomas, choir director at Mt. Helms Baptist Church in Jackson, and a student at New Orleans Seminary, worked this summer for the mission center. He directed the children in the

musical "It was for Me," a 30-minute program which the children performed at the nursing homes.

The nursing homes were Manhattan, Magnolia, Albemarle, and Lakeland. The children performed one a day for the week, finishing up with a picnic and skating party at Colonial Heights Church.

Kimberly Myers, another summer worker at the center and a student at Southern Seminary, played piano for the group. Other summer workers were Eugene Stockstill at Mississippi College and Todd Allen at Belhaven College.

Tucker, who has worked at the mission center nine years, said this summer was the best response for Vacation-Bible School yet. The center enrolled 135 and averaged 70 each day for the two week VBS.

The musical was in practice for only two and a half weeks. However, the nursing home residents response was warm and appreciative. "We have an invitation from every place to come back," said Tucker.

Tucker plans one more performance, this time at First Church, Jackson, Sept. 29 at 5 p.m. The WMU there purchased tee-shirts for the children.



Children from the Hinds-Madison Baptist Mission Center greet residents of the Lakeland Health Care Center in Jackson after a musical performance.



Calvin Thomas leads the children's choir at Lakeland Health Care Center in Jackson.

Graham invited to Romania

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (EP) — Evangelist Billy Graham has accepted an invitation to preach in Romania, Sept. 7-17. Although details of the visit are still under discussion, it is expected that he will visit six or seven cities, including Bucharest (the capital of Romania), Suceava, Cluj-Napoca, Oradea, Arad, Timisoara, and Sibiu.

The invitation was extended to Graham on behalf of the 14 religious denominations which are officially recognized by the Romanian Government.

A spokesman for Graham said he has been invited to preach in Orthodox, Reformed, Baptist, Pentecostal, and Roman Catholic churches. Graham will also visit two theological seminaries (one Orthodox and one Protestant), and have numerous meetings with church organizations and officials, as well as state officials.



Luther Tucker holds Anthrice as he introduces the musical program at a Jackson nursing home.

Letters to the Editor

Supply honorarium

Editor:

As I read the letter, "Consider the supply," submitted by Allen G. Landers, I could not believe my eyes nor could my heart but feel great sorrow at this complaining letter.

How have those who say they have been "called" to preach the gospel fallen so low? I agree that churches should consider the expenses of a supply preacher (not pastor) and pay him a sufficient amount (we pay \$100 and are a very small body). But for a man who calls himself a preacher of the Word to openly complain about what he was given is a slap in the face of all that Christians should be. Paul made his own way and even worked to support those who went with him.

J. C. Thomas
Pickens

I agree with your philosophy, but maybe he was led to complain because those of us who should have

been complaining in his stead have not been doing enough of it. Missionaries have echoed this same complaint for years, saying many times they wind up having to spend their own money in order to fulfill engagements. And for years I have complained in churches where I have been a member that we have been short-sighted in financial dealings with people who serve the churches, including paying instrumentalists, and being generous enough in severance pay. — Editor

Christian rock

Editor:

So much has been written concerning Christian rock music that I hesitate to belabor the issue. However, I'll proceed if you will allow me the space in our paper.

In studying church music I find that even the old masters were criticized for their drastic change in style from that which was the accepted.

I recall, as a youngster, hearing my parents and their peers worry about "the beat" of "singing convention" music. As a college student I was appalled that some music purist teachers made light of "the beat" of such favorites as "Saved, Saved" and "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart."

The more I studied the more I came to appreciate classical church music. However, I find that a steady diet of that is not what most churches or their members want or need.

About 20 years ago a counselor from our high school told me that one of our church members, a senior, had listed church music as his greatest dislike. Be assured that caused me to re-evaluate our church music diet.

Simply stated, this is my philosophy. There are three categories of church music — head music, heart music, and foot music. I'm going to provide for our people all three but plan to stay mainly in the middle of the road and provide that which warms the heart and prepares the

worshiper for the inspiration of the Bible message of the preacher.

John T. Laughlin
First Church
Meridian

Foundation of civilization

Editor:

Recently Grant Tinker, Chairman of NBC, gave an interview with Cosmopolitan magazine. Asked his opinion concerning marriage, Mr. Tinker had this to say: "Relationships wear out and come to an end, just like (television) shows." Perhaps we can now better understand the extreme casual attitude (even hostile attitude) which the networks have toward marriage and the family.

Another item of interest is a new movie being produced by MGM/UA, a major studio. Quoting People magazine (8/5/85): "Nine and One-Half Weeks most prominently features bizarre sex, including sadism and masochism." Adrian Lyne, director of the S&M movie, told People:

"The challenge is to get couples in Des Moines to see it, and they will argue about it all the way home. Then maybe they'll do some of the stuff they've seen in the movie."

Still another item of interest is that Walt Disney is planning a new movie starring Madonna. Madonna, as you know, was featured in the September issue of both Playboy and Penthouse. Now Walt Disney is planning to feature her in a movie. In her interview with Penthouse, Madonna stated: "Crucifixes are sexy because there's a naked man on them." On the Penthouse cover Madonna wore one crucifix around her neck. On the Playboy cover she was wearing five crucifixes. News reports said that the copies of Penthouse and Playboy were fast selling among teenagers.

We are engaged not in a battle of dirty words and dirty pictures, but in a spiritual struggle for the very foundation of western civilization. It is a struggle for the hearts and minds of individuals. And we are losing. All

(Continued on page 9)

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Marjean Patterson

Patterson Porch has a nice alliterative sound. No wonder. It's named for a nice person. And not only nice. She's one of the most talented, capable, brilliant people I know.

Because I was born March 22 and she was born March 23, the same year, I laughingly call her my "almost twin." Marjean Patterson was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the day after I was born near Camp Hill, Alabama, less than 100 miles away. Yet we never met until she came to work in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1957.

Since 1971 she has been executive director of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union. Appropriately, the Mississippi porch in the new WMU, SBC, headquarters building in Birmingham was named in her honor.

"Hey!" Marjean will say when I phone her or visit her office, giving the impression she'd rather talk to me than anyone. No matter how busy she is, she never gives a brusque answer. I'm sure she greets others in the same warm, cordial way.

Marjean's father, Len Patterson, died when Marjean was 14. Her mother, Maggie, who is now 92, worked in a toy factory to support her two daughters and two sons. Her job in the assembly line was to sew together the heads of stuffed animals or dolls. Later, she developed a dormant art talent she discovered after retirement. She began making ceramic animals, many of which have been sold to campers at Garaywa. Marjean told me that when she visited President Harold Fisher's office at Blue Mountain College she saw a turtle made by her mother. A couple of years ago when I went with a group of women from Morrison Heights Church to Ridgecrest, N.C., we stopped at the northwest Atlanta house where Marjean grew up. We had a visit with her mother, and I acquired one of her ceramic dogs.

It was at Ridgecrest in 1948 that Marjean felt the Lord was calling her into WMU work. She had graduated from Fulton High School. While working as a secretary for Standard Oil Company, she took University of Georgia courses at night. Then Northside Park Baptist Church (where she was baptized at age 12) did something that changed her life. They sent her to YWA camp at Ridgecrest. Since that time, she has traveled to 50 countries, visiting missionaries in most of them. But before then she had never been out of Georgia and had met few missionaries.

During that week in the Blue Ridge Mountains, she recalls, "I thought I had gone to heaven!" She saw 1,500 girls gathered to learn about missions. She met Alma Hunt and Margaret Bruce and the state WMU youth director for Georgia. "I realized the scope of the whole thing. I hadn't even known before there was a 'state worker.' The Lord gave me an indication that June that I'd be one of those 'state workers' some day."

The small church that sent her to Ridgecrest thus had a great influence on her life. Today she encourages churches of all sizes, "Send your young people to Garaywa and Ridgecrest and Glorieta. You don't know how much it will mean!"

Her pastor's wife, Mrs. Tom Hagood, urged her to enroll at Carson-Newman College. With a job in the alumni office, she did. A couple from Northside Park Church sent her \$10 a month, as spending money, until she got her degree (an English major) two years later (and they continued that practice on through her training at Carver School of Missions and Social Work, where she received a master of religious education degree in 1957.)

"YWA was my love." Evidently it was the place the Lord had picked out for her. Miss Edwina Robinson, then state WMU director, went to Louisville, Ky., in the spring of 1957, looking for a director of Young Woman's Auxiliary for Mississippi WMU. I'm glad she found Marjean.

Lots of counseling opportunities came in the work with young women, so she sought and earned a master's degree from Mississippi College in education and counseling. Subsequently her job for a few years changed to director of WMS.

All her work in the role of executive director, Mississippi WMU, I would not attempt to describe. But she tells me that her goal is to do all she can to get as many women and girls involved in missions education as possible. "If they don't know," she stresses, "they don't care."

She is a forceful speaker and an excellent writer. I particularly remember an emotion-packed article she wrote once about saying goodbye to a missionary couple at the airport. "One of the best things about this job is relating to missionaries," she says. Quarterly, she sends a newsletter to Mississippi missionaries. In Hawaii and Colombia, she has been involved in volunteer mission projects.

Her column in the WMU paper, alongside, I always enjoy reading. Occasionally she mentions her two nephews and two great-nephews. Too, she is author of a book, *Covered Foundations*, a history of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

"I definitely believe in being involved in the local church," she declares. "Miss Ed was my role model for that." She lives at 115 Easthaven Drive, Clinton, where she shares a house with Jan Cossitt. She and I are both members of Morrison Heights Church. Recently, she concluded a term on the church's Finance Committee, the first woman to have chaired the committees and is now our church WMU director. Definitely she is a great Bible teacher. I love to hear her teach Sunday School because her words and illustrations flow so easily—all from memory, not a sign of a note.



Marjean Patterson's office is decorated with art objects from around the world, including a collection of wooden figures. The one she holds is from Korea.

Her blue eyes flash with mischief as she tells me about her favorite game, golf. "When I hit the ball," she says, "I pretend I'm hitting whoever I'm mad with!"

I could go on, but by now you have the picture: The Patterson Porch is named for the right person. Mississippi WMUs continue to make contributions for the \$47,000 cost of the porch and its furnishings. Through August 8, gifts totaled \$17,302.01.

Already a wedding has taken place

on the porch! On June 28, Melinda Sue Gunn married James H. Poole Jr. in a ceremony there. The bride is an employee of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC.

Next time I want to give a memorial gift, I plan to send it to this fund. And when some WMU member I know and admire has a birthday, I just might send a gift to the fund and notify her that I've done that as a present for her. Anybody who wants to send such gifts may address them to WMU, SBC, Box C-10, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

Convention Board . . .

(Continued from page 3)

The Board approved a plan to reorganize itself. The six working committees of the Board: Budget and Cooperative Promotion, New Church Expansion, Assembly and Camp Programs, Church-Minister Relations Advisory, Missions and Evangelism, and Pastoral-Church Building Aid will each have 15 members. Another nine members will ultimately be on the Biracial Commission, having three elected each year until the total of nine is reached. And the MBCB president will be ex-officio on all committees. This puts each of the 100 members on a committee allowing for fuller participation. Prior policy placed only six members on each committee. The Executive Committee will consist of 16 rather than the current 15 members, with any of those members allowed on any of the other committees, but not required to be as present policy states that one member of each standing committee also be on the Executive Committee. The reorganization plan goes to the Convention's Constitution and Bylaws committee before consideration by the convention in November.

An appropriations policy was also approved by Board members. Ordinarily, the Board approves \$1,500 per year to associations which submit to a visit by a convention board staffer who offers MBCB services in planning. The new policy provides for up to \$6,000 annually for full time associational church development or Christian social ministries staffers, on a five year phaseout plan. "Where unique ministry needs exist, such as port ministries, the \$6,000 allocation may continue indefinitely," says the new policy.

Additionally, the board approved a "Resolution on the Need to Minister," which was submitted by the Missions and Evangelism Committee. Development of a strategy for fighting poverty in Mississippi was assigned to convention (Continued on page 10)

Church Training sets sights for "Four More Than Ever Before"

By Mose Dangerfield

"Four More than Ever Before" is an emphasis designed to produce the highest possible Church Training attendance on High Attendance Day, Sunday, Sept. 29. The emphasis is built around the number four.

The essential actions include: Use of a "Four More Than Ever Before" attendance commitment card; four sign-up Sundays in September on which prospects will sign attendance commitment cards; deacons signing up four families; one sign up period in the morning worship service; Four Funny Foods Finetime Fellowship before Church Training; enrollment of those in attendance and presentation of four funny prizes at the Fellowship.

This emphasis can be an exciting time for the church discipleship train-

ing program. The high attendance night would be a good time to preview the October-December studies. It can be the beginning of a very good year of Church Training work. Churches should be sure to communicate the

purpose of Church Training — that of doing discipleship training.

Mose Dangerfield directs the Mississippi Church Training Department.

Elena brings bad news

(Continued from page 3)

process," he added, "of determining the extent of wind damage. Fortunately, the Convention Board has excellent insurance coverage."

Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Baptist Record, was in Pascagoula with the disaster relief unit on Tuesday morning at press time for the Record. He reported to Paul Harrell by radio that Ingalls

Avenue Church, Pascagoula, has steeple and roof damage; Escatawpa Church has roof damage; Martin Bluff Church at Gautier has extensive damage; the associational office in Jackson County had \$60,000 damage; and that both Seamen's Center buildings were destroyed.

Pictures and more extensive coverage of storm damage will appear in next week's Baptist Record.

Proposed budget 1986

Mississippi Baptist Convention

	1985	1986	% of Total
SBC CAUSES			
400 Southern Baptist Convention			
Foreign Mission Board	2,935,282	3,218,796	17.35
Home Mission Board	1,157,513	1,264,813	6.82
Seminaries	1,207,151	1,318,905	7.11
Radio and TV Commission	246,139	269,123	1.45
Capital Needs	341,998	240,408	1.30
Other	324,417	365,955	1.97
SUB-TOTAL	6,212,500	6,678,000	36.00
351 South Am. Missions Coordinator	15,000	-0-	
397 SBC Video Cassette Program	14,900	-0-	
399 Mission Service Corps. Prog.	10,000	8,000	.04
SBC CAUSES GRAND TOTAL	\$ 6,252,400	\$ 6,686,000	36.04
INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES			
Christian Education	\$ 3,227,400	\$ 3,361,247	18.12
Christian Education Capt. Needs	500,000	600,000	3.23
Unified Endowment Campaign	200,000	200,000	1.08
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center			
217 Education	35,000	33,000	.18
218 Hardship Assistance	85,000	85,000	.46
224 Med. Ctr. Capt. Needs	60,000	60,000	.32
225 Children's Village	321,000	341,000	1.84
226 Ministerial Education Board	87,200	92,500	.50
227 Christian Action	130,900	141,760	.76
228 Baptist Foundation	127,500	135,500	.73
229 Historical Commission	31,500	32,665	.18
289 Miss. Baptist Biracial Commission	134,500	140,160	.76
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 4,940,000	\$ 5,222,832	28.16
BOARD PROGRAMS			
345 Conv. Bd. Capt. Needs	384,000	384,000	2.07
347 Gulfshore Assembly Programming	134,000	142,000	.77
349 Gulfshore Operations	122,174	128,221	.69
350 Program Director's Office	116,534	110,473	.60
355 Youth Night	10,000	10,000	.05
360 Broadcast Services	89,224	100,583	.54
361 Church Adm.-Pastoral Min.	92,034	101,865	.55
362 Church Building Services	44,448	46,414	.25
363 Associational Administration	62,683	70,526	.38
364 WMU	277,000	291,375	1.57
367 Sunday School	330,000	341,707	1.84
368 Church Training	273,500	281,150	1.52
369 Brotherhood	180,845	191,307	1.03
370 Church Music	177,000	188,751	1.02
371 Student Work	596,664	642,388	3.46
344 Student Centers Capt. Needs	100,000	100,000	.54
*373 Evangelism Promotion	93,955	95,472	.51
374 Cooperative Missions	213,000	224,388	1.21
375 Stewardship & Coop. Prog. Prom.	222,029	198,677	1.07
376 Subsidies to Associations	112,500	118,500	.64
377 Church-Minister Rel. & Annulity	145,376	152,099	.82
378 General Services (Bldg. Maint., Bldg. Serv., Basic Telephone, Print Shop)	663,162	693,479	3.74
380 Baptist Record	203,460	259,270	1.40
385 Annulity Participation	615,800	640,000	3.45
387 Social Security & Ins. (Board)	545,000	625,000	3.37
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 5,804,388	\$ 6,137,645	33.09
389 Public Relations	22,018	18,561	.10
390 Convention Sessions	17,500	17,500	.09
391 Convention Annual, Diary, etc.	32,000	30,000	.16
392 Convention Board & Comm. Meetings	25,000	25,000	.14
393 Exec. Secty-Treasurer's Office	145,898	154,574	.83
394 Business Office	152,937	159,722	.86
395 Management Information Systems	107,859	98,166	.53
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 503,212	\$ 503,523	2.71
STATE CAUSES - GRAND TOTAL	\$11,247,600	11,864,000	63.96
GRAND TOTAL - ALL CAUSES	\$17,500,000	\$18,550,000	100.00

*In addition to this amount for Evangelism Promotion, the HMB is providing \$13,000 for 1986. Other departments have budgeted \$129,644 for reaching persons for Christ and the church.



Pickerings teach in Mexico

Eugene and Rebecca Pickering, members of Washington Church, Washington have just returned from a two week mission effort where the Pickerings were part of a 25 member team from around the United States who gathered in Douglas, Ariz. This team was sponsored by the Tom Cox Evangelistic Association of Tulsa, Okla.

The Pickerings were teachers for one of the seven Vacation Bible Schools, held in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and at the Friendship Center in Douglas. There was a total attendance of 1,409 in the Bible Schools and approximately 200 made professions of their faith through these Bible schools.

Each evening the team participated in a revival crusade at the Sunnyside Baptist Church in Douglas and the second week at the Baptist church in

Agua Prieta, Mexico. The team sang and gave testimonies before Tom Cox brought the message. There were 48 professions of faith during the crusade in Mexico. Cox, native of Mississippi, is the son of Mrs. W. H. Cox of McLaurin.

Homecomings

Rocky Point (Leake): homecoming, Sept. 22; services, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on the ground, 12 noon; song service, 1:30 with "The Sons of Faith" as featured singers; David Wilkenson, pastor.

Mineral Wells: homecoming, Sept. 15; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; "dinner-on-the-grounds," noon; music program, 1:30 until 3:00 p.m.; morning message, Wade Carver, former pastor; J. E. Williams, pastor.

Ethiopian Jews protest against Israeli rabbis

AFULA, Israel (EP) — Hundreds of newly arrived Ethiopian Jews recently marched against the refusal of Israel's chief rabbis to recognize them as full Jews. Midway through the July 16 march the demonstration was called off when Prime Minister Shimon Peres agreed to discuss their grievances.

Thousands of Ethiopian Jews were secretly airlifted to Israel from refugee camps in the Sudan last fall. Israel's grand rabbis have refused to recognize the immigrants as full Jews. Earlier this year Orthodox Jews

drove off a group of Ethiopian immigrants who were trying to pray at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

The Ethiopian Jews were cut off from mainstream Jewish traditions after the destruction of Jerusalem's Second Temple in 70 A.D., but still they have kept Kosher and observed the Sabbath.

The Ethiopians consider it an affront to have their Jewishness questioned in Israel, the place they have longed for through many years of suffering.

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Devotional

When it is bad to be normal

By Charles M. Moody
Romans 12:11

What does it mean to be normal? The dictionary states that to be normal is to conform to a usual pattern. To be a normal person is to be quite similar to everyone else. Being normal is a desirable trait.



There are times, however, when it is bad to be normal. It is a normal thing for marriages to end in divorce, but that is bad. It is normal for people to use profanity, but that is bad. It is quite normal for people to abuse their bodies with tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and improper eating, but that is bad. Violence and explicit sex are normal on TV and movie screens, but that is bad. Greed and prejudice are traits normally found in most of us, but that is bad.

I also think that being an average or normal Christian is bad. Since observation and statistics show that about 75 percent of the work and money invested in the typical church comes from about 25 percent of the members, it is obvious that the normal church member does not set a good example.

Although Jesus set a high standard of discipleship, the normal Christian is satisfied with a completely different brand of Christianity. He tempers his faith with realism. He guards against being too enthusiastic about his faith. He is cautious about making any great sacrifices. Unfortunately, he doesn't feel too badly, because as he compares himself with others, he feels normal.

In Romans 12:11, Paul urged his readers to "serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion." If we do this, we will not be normal or typical Christians. We will be exceptional Christians because of our devotion and eagerness to serve the Lord.

When you see persons become Christians, do you expect them to be normal in their level of discipleship, or do you pray that they will be extraordinary in their love and commitment? Does your life influence other Christians to be normal or exceptional Christians?

Moody is pastor, First, Morton.

Revival Dates

First, Greenwood: Sept. 8-15; Sun., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Sat. 7 p.m.; Al Finch, pastor, evangelist; Doug Scott, music evangelist; theme, "Coming Home."

Southside located on Highway 26 West, Lucedale: Sept. 8-12; services 7 p.m. nightly; Jerry Moore, Panama City, evangelist, said "the veil of blindness which darkened my life for 10 years lifted and the Lord gave me back my sight!"; Tom Miller, pastor.

Oakdale (Rankin): Sept. 8-11; regular Sunday services, Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Michael O'Brian, First, Lexington, evangelist; Lewis Oswalt, Union, Picayune, music; Alan Kilgore, pastor; Miss Susan Clark, minister of music and youth.

Glade, Highway 15 South, Laurel: Sept. 8-12; James Fancher, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; services, 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; Charles E. Davis, Sr., pastor.

Souenlovie, Enterprise: Sept. 5-8; services, Sept. 5-7, 7 p.m.; Sept. 6, 6:30-7:30, preaching; 7:30, gospel singing; Sunday School, 10 a.m., preaching, 11-12:30, dinner on ground; Robert Higginbotham, evangelist; Ken McDavid, music; Parker Chancellor, pastor.

Pray for MKs

September 15—Miguel A. Gonzalez, Jr., Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College.

Laurel area plans mini-crusade

Churches from five-county area surrounding Laurel will come together for an evangelistic mini-crusade at West Laurel Church, Laurel, Sept. 12 and 13, at 7:30 p.m. with LaVerne Butler as evangelist. Butler's 15-year ministry at Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., has led to more than 4,000 additions. He is also widely known for his nationwide television ministry.

David Young will lead the music. Area churches are to participate in the Crusade Choir, with rehearsal at 7 each evening.

A pastor's conference is planned for noon at Bosum Joe's Restaurant to provide opportunity for meeting with Butler.

This crusade is sponsored by area churches.

Swor will speak at Ole Miss series

UNIVERSITY, Miss.—Chester Swor, dubbed "America's oldest active youth director," will kick off The University of Mississippi's Religious Emphasis Series with a public address on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Union ballroom.

The 78-year-old Swor, a fulltime lecturer, is the author or co-author of eight books and is now preparing three more.

Asked why he was still maintaining such a demanding schedule at his age, Swor replied, "Moses didn't receive his main assignment until he was 80."

The Religious Emphasis Series is co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Life and the Committee of 100 interdenominational student group.



Union County members construct Indiana church

A group of church members from Union County Baptist Association traveled to Princeton, Ind., to help in construction of a new church building and conduct Backyard Bible Schools.

Though none in the group had ever heard of Princeton prior to the Home Mission Board's request for help, volunteer Anne Dowdy reported that "the people are not strangers any more."

On the edge of the 12,000 population town is the new building of the Missionary Baptist Fellowship Church, SBC, Mark Sauter, pastor. There the men of the group did trim work on the outside, finished sheetrock, painted, finished cabinets, put in windows, and did trim work in the sanctuary.

The women on the team cooked meals for the group, conducted Bible school for a week, enrolling 24 children, and put two coats of paint on three rooms of the church.

The people participating in the mis-

sion endeavor were Marvin Cox, director of missions; Sam Cox, and Mary Ann Pannell of Ellistown Church; Larry Bain from Northside Church; and Wayne and Anna Stanton, Kelly, Linda and Robbye Taylor, Mike Cannerdy, and Anne Dowdy, all from Temple Church.

All three churches plus the association provided money for food, supplies, and transportation.

Later, another group from the association returned to Princeton for more finishing work including painting walls, carpentry, and staining woodwork. Taylor's Cabinet Shop donated four vanities for the restrooms. This second group consisted of Kelly Taylor, Wayne Stanton, Mike Cannerdy, Roy Knighton Sr., Anne Dowdy, Sudan Dowdy, and Linda Irwin from Temple Church, and Mary Ann Pannell of Ellistown Church.

Names in the News

Oscar McFall, 77, died Aug. 21 in Magee General Hospital. He was the husband of Ina M. Floyd McFall, an employee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in the business office. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Aug. 23, at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home, Jackson. McFall, a native of Corydon, Ind., was a former resident of Louisville, Ky. He had lived in Braxton since 1963. He was a member of New Zion Baptist Church and a former youth teacher at Braxton United Methodist Church. He retired in 1970 as mill supervisor for Stork Line, Inc., with 34 years of service. Survivors others than his wife are a son, William E. McFall of Jackson; daughters, Mrs. Burl P. (Jean) Conner and Mrs. Jerry (Dot) Ferguson, both of Jackson, and Mrs. James P. (Jayne) Herrington of Florence; stepson, Carroll Mangum of Jackson; one brother; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

William T. "Bill" Dawson, teacher at First Church, Jackson, has been elected to the board of directors of Jackson Youth for Christ. Dawson is district manager for South Central Bell Telephone Company in Jackson. Jackson Youth for Christ is an interdenominational Christian organization working with junior high and senior high students in the Jackson area since 1944.

RICHMOND, Va.—Helen S. Wood was named to manage student ministries for the Foreign Mission Board, effective Aug. 31.

Foundation of civilization

(Continued from page 6)

other issues facing the Christian community pale in comparison and are inter-related to this one. After working in this area for nine years, I am thoroughly convinced that if the Church does not aggressively and effectively address this issue within the next four to five years, it will not matter after that time whether it addresses the issue or not. It will be too late. Pray that the Christian community will address it while there is still time.

Donald E. Wildmon
Executive Director
National Federation for
Decency
Tupelo

Preschool/children workshop cancelled

The preschool/children's Sunday School workshop at Gulfshore this weekend, Sept. 6-7, has been cancelled.

Recreators will meet in Biloxi

The Mississippi Baptist Recreators Association meeting will take place in Biloxi, Sept. 16-18.

The program will focus on "Youth and Recreation" featuring two speakers from outside the state. Wesley Black, associate professor in youth education at Southwestern Seminary, and Joe Palmer, a recreation consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be speaking.

The meeting will take place at the Broadwater Motel in Biloxi at a cost of \$86 for members and \$71 for spouses. This includes two nights' lodging, two meals, and membership dues.

Members are asked to send the money to Robin Nichols, consultant in the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Participation in golf and tennis tournaments which are tentatively planned for Sept. 17 will cost extra. Also Nichols has membership information.

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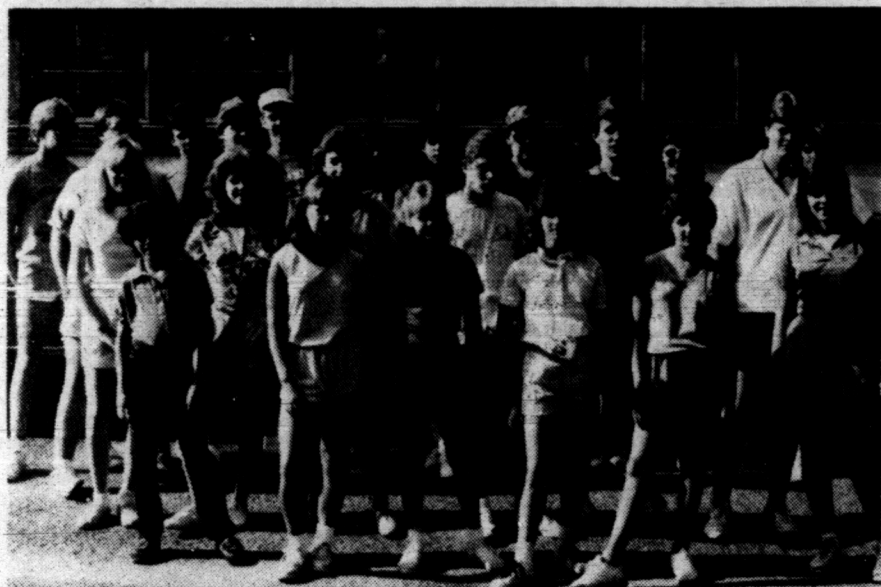
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- Just for the Record -



Twenty-six young people representing First Church, Wiggins, recently returned from a mission trip to Dauphin Island, Ala. During the week the young people, under the leadership of David Sartin, minister of education and activities, conducted backyard Bible clubs and performed the musical "Godpleasers" in area churches and campgrounds. Highlighting the week-long tour were trips to the Juvenile Detention Center and the International Seaman's Center in Mobile where the group's newest band performed. Making the trip were, front from left, Vance Green, Keri Herrington, Marcie Davis, Jennifer Renot, Chelle Grantham, Pam Gill; second row, Sarah Hardy, Angie Tucker, Catherine Cooley, Ron Elwell, Tom Cain, Greg White; back row, Clint Young, Tadd Parsons, Kelly Herrington, Stephen Hardy, Al Alexander, Julie Melton, Lance Taylor, Joe Cain, Meg Dorsett, Carla Evans, and Kristi White. Not pictured Janine Finnan, Hope High and Heather Cain.



Wildwood, Clinton celebrated Fred Womack's tenth anniversary as pastor, August 4. During the service he was presented with a scrapbook commemorating many shared experiences; and a framed appreciation note written in calligraphy. The youth gave him and his wife matching tee-shirts with their names printed on in Greek. The church also gave him a monetary love gift. The deacons and wives showered them with food and a large decorated anniversary cake. Relatives attending the service were Mr. and Mrs. Gaddis Womack, Magee, (Womack's parents) and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hinkle, Yazoo City, (Mrs. Womack's parents). Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Womack, and children, left to right, Kathy Womack, Eric Womack, Leiane Smith.

Focus on the Family, a film series by James Dobson, Ph.D., will be seen for seven consecutive Sunday nights, beginning Sept. 8 at Hernando Church, Hernando, starting at 5:30 p.m. during church training hour. Dobson is a Christian psychologist and an author on family relationships. W. E. Corkern, pastor.

Alva and Rebecca Weir III, missionaries to Nigeria since 1982, resigned from missionary service July 31. They served in Eku, Nigeria, where he was a physician and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Memphis, Tenn. The former Rebecca Kidd, she was born in Water Valley, Miss., and considers Memphis her hometown. They may be addressed at 983 June Rd., Memphis, TN 38119.

Roland and Linda Hodge, missionaries to Ecuador, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 704 Rainey, Marshall, TX 76570). He is a native of Magee, Miss. The former Linda Broxson of Texas, she was born in Pampa.

Wendell and Laquita Powers, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: The Cloisters, 2124 Fairfax Ave., Nashville, TN 37215). Born in Pruden, Ky., he also lived in Pruden, Tenn., and Speedwell, Tenn., while growing up. The former Laquita Inmon, she was born near Bruce and also live in Lula.

Julie McAtee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. McAtee, missionaries to Indonesia, married Phillip Milam on July 20 in Waco, Texas. Her parents are in the States and may be addressed at Rt. 3, Box 298A-1, Florence, MS 39073. They are natives of Jackson, and she is the former Carolyn Mahaffey.

Patricia Harbin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Harbin, missionaries to Brazil, married Steve Boseman on July 20. Her parents may be addressed at Caixa Postal 18345, 04699 Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil. He was born in Tuscaloosa County, Ala., and lived near Bainbridge, Ga., while growing up. She is the former Dora Dunkley of McLaurin, Miss.

Convention Board approves major building projects

(Continued from page 7)
vention board departments with the Cooperative Mission Department correlating such a strategy. (Text of resolution is below).

Earlier, the Board Executive Committee approved extension for another year past retirement age for Clifton Perkins, director of the Church-Minister Relations Department, and for Gladys Bryant, Baptist Student Union director at East Central Junior College.

Resolution on the Need to Minister
WHEREAS, Jesus our Lord taught us that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and

WHEREAS, within the bounds of our beloved Mississippi there exists some of the most abject poverty in these United States of America, and

WHEREAS, we Baptists are usually blessed and are an abundant presence in Mississippi, and

WHEREAS, our Lord taught us to love mercy and justice and to set good examples in such matters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board go on record as favoring and highly recommending that every Baptist association and every Baptist church in Mississippi plan and conduct strategies to alleviate poverty which prevades this great state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the staffs of the appropriate departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and of the appropriate Southern Baptist Convention agencies be requested to develop a strategy and communicate to every association and church in Mississippi suggested administrative and program resources available to them for the faithful responding to this great need.

In the forefront of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's response to this great need will be the Cooperative Missions Department, the Woman's Missionary Union, the Brotherhood Department, the Christian Action Commission, and the Mississippi Baptist

tist Biracial Commission. The recommended associational units in the forefront will be the Associational Missions Development Program. The recommended church units in the forefront will be the Church Missions Committee, WMU, Brotherhood, and Sunday School. The Cooperative Missions Department is charged with correlating the work resulting from this resolution.

Priceville Church

(Continued from page 3)

pens." The church met for one Sunday in the associational office in Tupelo. Terry Ramey, minister of music and youth, said, "Having this trailer will really mean a lot. The associational office is nice, but there is no place like home."

Robert Rogers, new pastor at Priceville, does not believe fundraising will be a problem. He said, "Our biggest concern is these two men in the hospital. We appreciate the prayers and support we have already gotten."

A blood drive for the burn victims will be September 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the chapel trailer.

Linda Moore is a student at State.

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Missionary News

E. V. and Frances May, missionaries since 1969, retired from active missionary service Aug. 1. They served in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico before transferring to Trinidad in 1983. He was born in Glendale, Ky., and grew up in Mississippi and Texas. The former Frances Burke, she was born in Brooks County, Ga.

Tom Ferguson, journeyman to Kenya, has returned to the States (address: 113 Gary St., RR 4 Gulfport, MS 39503). He was born in Alliance, Ohio, and considers Hattiesburg, Miss., his hometown.

Adult SS clinic is slated for three locations

All adult Sunday School department leaders and general officers are invited to an Adult Department Clinic, which will take place in three locations. The three places and dates will be Sept. 30 at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven; Oct. 1 at First Church, Columbus; and Oct. 3 at West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo. Each will meet 7-9 p.m.

Featured speaker will be Ron Pratt, an adult consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

The clinic will focus on the tasks of the department, organization, and the role of each leader.

The meeting is sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Previous publicity sent out from the Sunday School Department stated that the Oct. 3 meeting is on Wednesday. However, it is on Thursday.

Staff Changes

First, Vardaman, has called Dale Easley as pastor. He has served churches in Webster and Calhoun Associations and was serving as interim pastor at Vardaman when he accepted the call. Easley and his wife, the former Mary Douglas Mallory, are both from Calhoun County. They have three daughters, Joan, Janice and Joanna.

Dianne Webb is the new child care/kindergarten director at First Church, Oxford. She and her husband, David, have two daughters. Mrs. Webb is a graduate of Bruce High School and the University of Mississippi.

Gray Allison Jr. has resigned as pastor of Brewer Church, Lee County, to enroll in graduate school.

Stan Rushing has resigned as pastor of First, Leland. He will be entering the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in September.

George Salazar is the new minister of music and youth at First Church, Leakesville.

First, Columbus has called C. Winfield "Windy" Rich to serve on their staff as interim minister of education. Rich is a native of West Point.

Churches he has served for the past 41 years include First, San Antonio, First, Augusta, and Temple, Memphis. He has taught on the faculty of Rich Ridgecrest and Glorieta Conference Centers and has served as president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director
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Dr. & Mrs. Gary Jackson
Mrs. Hettie Wolfe
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Mr. & Mrs. Pate Brown, Jr.
Mrs. Ruby F. Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Billy F. Ferrell
Mr. C. E. Woods
Fred & Rose Powers
Henry Young
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P. G. Batson, Jr.
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Truitt Memorial BC
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Mrs. Lester Bear
Mrs. Velma Sanford
Alathan Sunday School, Collins
Taylor Matthew Shivers
Mary/Martha Sunday School, Starkville
Mrs. Hugh Watkins
Mrs. Stephen Bryant
Mrs. Dora P. Whitley
Nights WMS, Louisville
Mr. & Mrs. Joe B. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Branscome, Jr.

July 26-August 23

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Annabelle Adams
Mrs. Joe D. Stringer, Sr.
Mr. Lynn Adcock
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Norwood
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Sarah Hayward
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Jeremiah's faithfulness and Jerusalem's fall

By J. Gerald Harris
Jeremiah 38:14-20; 39:6-8

Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. He was 21 years old when he became the king. For 11 years he ruled over the nation of Judah from his throne in Jerusalem (II King 24:18). His Biblical biography is depressing. The Scripture says, "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that Jehoiakim had done" (II Kings 24:19).

Babylon was fighting against the people of Judah. Zedekiah's reign was characterized by turmoil, famine, and strife. It was a bleak, dismal era for the chosen people of God.

Zedekiah in an act of desperation, sent for Jeremiah for a secret consultation. Their meeting place was "the third entry . . . in the house of the Lord" (38:14). This was probably the personal entrance of the king between the temple and the palace.

I. Jeremiah's Forecast (38:14-18)—The scene at the third entry of the temple is full of pathos. There is Zedekiah, who is at the end of his tether, grabbing at straws, looking for deliverance. There is the prophet of God who knows by divine revelation that there is only one recourse for Zedekiah—surrender.

Zedekiah promises that no harm will come to Jeremiah if he will but tell him how to escape his dilemma. Jeremiah accepts the king's promise and declares that the only way to survival is surrender. He further declares that to fail to comply with God's requirement of obedience will result in the city being captured and set on fire. This was the prophecy, the forecast of Jeremiah.

The path prescribed by Jeremiah was a difficult path. It attacked the pride of Zedekiah. After all, there was no glory in surrender. It attacked the self-will of Zedekiah. He preferred to do his own will rather than the will of God. It attacked the reasoning powers of Zedekiah. How could he ever be sure that his surrender would result in his safety?

God's terms of salvation are not easy. Salvation is free, but it's not cheap. It cost God His only begotten Son. In order for anyone to have the free gift of salvation there must be a willingness to do some difficult things: confess our sins, repent, put our faith in the shed blood of Jesus for salvation.

II. Zedekiah's Fears (38:19-20)—Zedekiah was a weak, vacillating monarch. "I am afraid," he declared, "of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me" (v. 19). Zedekiah was more concerned about what men thought than what God thought. He wanted Jeremiah's counsel, but he didn't want to have to follow it. In fact, he could never seem to make up his mind about anything. We know that "a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). And, "the fear of man bringeth a snare; but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25). Indeed, someone has said, "Fear is unbelief parading in disguise."

III. Jehovah's Faithfulness (39:6-8)—We discover that Zedekiah's refusal

to heed Jeremiah's counsel resulted in severe judgment. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed. Zedekiah tried to escape, but he was captured by the Chaldean army in the plains of Jericho.

Zedekiah was taken into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah. There Zedekiah's sons and nobles were slain before his eyes. Since the king was only 32 years of age at the time this occurred, his sons (at least two, perhaps more) were certainly young boys. How terrible and tragic to see your own sons massacred before your very eyes.

Then Zedekiah, who was already spiritually blind, had his physical eyes gouged out and was put in chains and taken to Babylon. The last vision of Zedekiah was not of a sunset or of a field of flowers or of a rainbow, but of the death of his sons. The judgment of God is certain.

Jehovah is faithful to keep His promises. He keeps His promise of judgment just as surely as He keeps His promise of blessing. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Gal. 6:7-8).

Harris is pastor of Colonial Heights, Jackson.

The Baptist World Alliance was formed in London, England, in 1905.

The privilege of sharing

By David W. Spencer
2 Corinthians 8:1-12

I. A "touchy" issue

A perennial church problem, often the subject of jokes, is how to take the "stew" out of stewardship and the "pain" out of budget campaigns. Stewardship is one of the acknowledged legitimate areas of the Christian life, but it is also one of the touchiest areas of our lives. Somehow we have decided that the subject of our stewardship is off-limits for the teacher or preacher. We don't want anyone looking over our shoulders as we make our offerings.

At Corinth this same problem plagued the church. Apparently a year earlier the Corinthian church had leaped into a stewardship campaign designed to provide relief for the hard-pressed saints still "toughing it out" in Jerusalem. The initial enthusiasm had fizzled and now Paul was trying to figure out a tactful way to get the church to fulfill its pledges and obligations. How would you tactfully remind a fellow church member that he needed to work on his stewardship?

II. Strategy for stewardship

It would certainly have been within Paul's rights as an apostle to chide the Corinthian church. He could have sharply reprimanded them about their unfulfilled pledges and their apparent lack of concern for those faithfully preaching the gospel in the stronghold of the Jews in Jerusalem. If he had chosen this strategy, Paul would have played into the hands of his critics. From previous lessons we remember how Paul's enemies in Corinth accused him of being too authoritarian. Paul made certain in verse 8 that his readers would not take his words as commands. What, then, was his strategy?

1. Paul wisely used an example of generosity for the Corinthians to see. Corinth was a prosperous city, strategically located on the coast of southern Greece. People had access to good-paying jobs. Macedonia was northern Greece. Most of the churches there were inland and not exactly "boom towns." Yet Paul pointed out the stewardship of the Macedonian Christians to challenge the Corin-

thians. Note the words Paul used in verses 1-5 to describe the Macedonians' stewardship: grace, severe trial, extreme poverty, welled-up, rich generosity, beyond their ability, sharing in this service, and gave themselves first. Each of these words or phrases must have popped like a whip on the backs of the well-to-do Corinthians. They had no excuse for poor stewardship. If the Macedonians could fulfill their financial obligations, then the Corinthians were without excuse!

2. Paul hammered away with the idea of grace. Five times in these 12 verses Paul used the word grace (in the Greek). Who had ever described stewardship as one of the spiritual graces before? A thorough reading of both Corinthian letters shows how the Corinthians prided themselves on the spiritual graces. Now Paul tells his stunned readers that generous stewardship is also one of the graces of the Christian life! Why don't they get as excited about stewardship as they are about tongues?

3. The final part of Paul's strategy is of course the extreme generosity of Jesus Christ (v. 9). All appeals to the Christian life ultimately go back to the example of Christ. Paul asked his readers to contemplate the awesome generosity of Christ who enriched the Corinthians with eternal salvation by impoverishing himself on a cross.

With his strategy in place, Paul closed his appeal (v. 10-12) with his opinion on what was now in order. The Corinthians needed to get on with the collection for the saints in Jerusalem, thus matching their intentions with actions. Verse 12 reminded the Corinthians that God only expected them to be faithful with what they had and not to give what they didn't have. No one has an excuse not to give. All God requires is faithfulness in what we do have!

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

Christ, our guide to maturity

By Anthony S. Kay
Philippians 3:13, 4:1,4-9

Today's lesson points out the need for spiritual growth and suggests resources available to us in our Christian pilgrimage toward maturity.

Observe some specific points of Paul's exhortation.

I. The Singleness of purpose—3:13-14

Christian growth comes through a process of recognition and projection. We must recognize where we are in relation to God's will. Paul assumed that he was following God's purpose for his life, but he realized that he had not attained full growth. In order to attain Christlikeness, there must be a singular objective. For Paul in particular, and all of us in general, "This one thing I do" is essential. Much of our effectiveness is lost because we are spread thin with "too many irons in the fire." Our purpose as Christians is to press toward Christlikeness.

II. Significant maturity—3:15-16

The command is growth toward

perfection. I used to try to excuse the use of the word perfection at this point. However, I realize that this is the applicable usage. God who is perfect sets the standard. He expects us to become Christlike in our Christian faith. Thus, anything less than perfect would suggest that God is satisfied with partial attainment. The beauty of our relationship to God the Father is that he establishes a requirement of perfection and he accepts no less, however, he does not reject us when we live imperfectly. The challenge for us is to grow into perfection.

III. Sensitive morality—3:17-19

The urgent plea is for Christians to imitate the example of Paul. He was aware of the pressing desire and limited concepts of the Christians of this era. We approximate the same condition today. Today many of these new Christians were interested in

satisfying the bodily appetites. They were excited about temporary things and Paul challenged them to have a greater perspective. These words about our "bellies" becoming our god disturbs us because they hit too close to home.

IV. Serious pursuit of joy—3:20-4:1,4-9

The closing segment of the lesson is some of the most beautiful scriptural language. Maturing Christians are challenged to live beyond an anxious, fretful existence. You say, "that's easier said than done," and you may be right. It doesn't mean that there will never be any anxiety in our living. It suggests to me that those things that usurp our energies, concern and lives should be relegated to a secondary place. The admonition to pray with thanksgiving is needed. We are well on the way to mature living when we can thank God for everything. To be sure, one doesn't thank God for a

tragic loss such as the death of a child, but he thanks God that from the experience he may know God is a more significant and special way. The peace of God and the Christian joy will come to those who are kept in God's peace through Christ.

This kind of Christian maturity will prepare us to say:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say,
It is well with my soul.

—Horatio G. Spafford
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